WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical scanning apparatus, comprising:

at least two light sources each configured and arranged to emit a light beam;

at least two beam shaping mechanisms each configured and arranged to shape each light beam;

a light deflector configured and arranged to deflect each light beam in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each light beam into a scanning light beam; and

at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms each configured to bring scanning light beam to a focus on a photoconductive surface, each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms satisfying an equation:

$\Delta L \cos \theta > R/2$ at a junction of the at least two scanning light beams with each other on the photoconductive surface,

wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

2. The optical scanning apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms includes a telecentric $f\theta$ lens system.

3. The optical scanning apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms

mechanisms includes a telecentric fθ mirror system.

4. The optical scanning apparatus, comprising:

at least two light source means for emitting a light beam;

at least two beam shaping means each for shaping the light beam;

light deflecting means for deflecting each light beam in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each light beam into a scanning light beam; and

at least two scanning beam focusing means each for bringing the scanning light beam to a focus on a photoconductive surface, each of said at least two scanning beam focusing means satisfying an equation:

$\Delta L \cos\alpha > R/2$ at a junction of the at least two scanning light beams with each other on the photoconductive surface,

wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

5. The optical scanning apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing means includes a telecentric fθ lens system.

6. The optical scanning apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing means

means includes a telecentric fθ mirror system.

7. A method of optical scanning, comprising the steps of:

emitting at least two light beams;

shaping said at least two light beams;

deflecting each of said at least two light beams in a continuously changing direction so as to convert each of said at least two light beams into a scanning light beam; and

bringing the scanning light beam to a focus on a photoconductive surface using at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms each of which satisfies an equation:

$\Delta L \cos\alpha > R/2$ at a junction of the scanning light beam with the other scanning light beam on the photoconductive surface,

wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

8. The method as defined in Claim 7, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms includes a telecentric fθ lens system.

9. The method as defined in Claim 7, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms includes a telecentric fθ mirror system.

10. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a photoconductive member; and

an optical scanning apparatus including,

at least two light sources each configured to emit a light beam;

at least two beam shaping mechanisms each configured to shape the light beam;

a light deflector configured to deflect each light beam in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each light beam into a scanning light beam; and

at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms each configured to bring the scanning light beam to a focus on a surface of said photoconductive member, each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms satisfying an equation:

$\Delta L \cos\alpha > R/2$ at a junction of the scanning light beam with the other scanning beam on the surface of said photoconductive member,

wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

11. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 10, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms includes a telecentric $f\theta$ lens system.

12. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 10, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms includes a telecentric fθ mirror system.

13. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

photoconductive means for being photoconductive; and

an optical scanning apparatus that includes,

at least two light source means each for emitting a light beam;

at least two beam shaping means each for shaping the light beam;

light deflecting means for deflecting each light beam in a continuously changing direction so as to convert each light beam into a scanning light beam; and

at least two scanning beam focusing means for bringing each scanning light beam to a focus on a surface of said photoconductive means, each of said at least two scanning beam focusing means satisfying an equation:

$\Delta L \cos\alpha > R/2$ at a junction of the scanning light beam with each other on the surface of said photoconductive means,

wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

14. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim

13, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing means includes a telecentric f θ lens system.

15. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 13, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing means includes a telecentric f θ mirror system.

16. A method of image forming, comprising the steps of:

charging a surface of a photoconductive member;

emitting at least two light beams;

shaping said at least two light beams;

deflecting each of said at least two light beams in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each of said at least two light beams into a scanning light beam; and

bringing the scanning light beam to a focus on the surface of the photoconductive member with at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms each of which satisfies an equation:

$\Delta L \cos\alpha > R/2$ at a junction of the scanning light beam with each other on the photoconductive surface,

wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

17. The method as defined in Claim 16, wherein each of

said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms includes a telecentric fθ lens system.

18. The method as defined in Claim 16, wherein each of said at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms includes a telecentric fθ mirror system.